



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 293

HOUSE BILL NO. 164

By Representatives Butler, Brock Martin, Capley, Barrett, Faison, Mr. Speaker Sexton, Raper, White, Fritts, Hale, Greg Martin, Slater, Keisling, Davis, Bulso, McCalmon, Carringer, Helton-Haynes, Hakeem, Grills, Farmer, Leatherwood, Powers, Eldridge, Hawk, Burkhart, Travis, Bricken, Reedy, Lynn, Cepicky, Littleton, Alexander, Moody, Sparks, Tim Hicks, Howell

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 534

By Senators Haile, Crowe, Massey, Reeves, White, Rose

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36, Chapter 1; Title 37, Chapter 5 and Title 68, Chapter 11, relative to children.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-1-119(c), is amended by designating the current language as subdivision (c)(1) and adding the following subdivision (c)(2):

(2) If the child was voluntarily left at a facility or in a newborn safety device pursuant to § 68-11-255, the child has resided in the home of the petitioners for at least three (3) months, and the court has received the final court report concerning the circumstances of the child and the petitioners and is satisfied that the adoption will be in the best interest of the child, then the court may waive the six-month waiting period after the filing of the adoption petition and may enter an order of adoption.

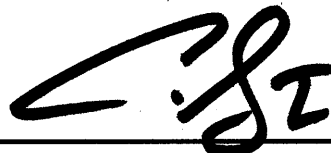
SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-1-142(f), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(4) If an infant is abandoned pursuant to § 68-11-255, then the department shall file a petition seeking termination of parental rights within ten (10) calendar days after the ninety-day period established in subsection (d) is completed. The court shall expedite the case and shall ensure that the hearing on the termination petition is heard within thirty (30) days of the date the petition is filed, unless the court determines an extension is in the best interest of the child.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 6, 2023



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 28th day of April 2023



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR